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FLOOR DEBATE

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our guys are using the money for. What our task forces are using the money for in Nebraska is actually going out and fighting crime with it. I've got a list here of arrests and buys that were made in Lincoln-Lancaster County by their task force. They made 1,500 arrests and they made 300 buys. And I know that Senator Chambers said that we're not hitting dealers. Well, certainly, if they got 300 buys here in Lincoln, they had to hit a dealer or two. Certainly they weren't all rummies trading drugs for booze. I can't buy that. In the metro, Omaha, Douglas, Sarpy, Papillion, Bellevue, LaVista, they made over 1,400 arrests. They made over 1,200 buys, 1,200 buys. They're buying meth that could be sold to kids. Who knows who's buying this stuff, but at least an undercover officer underneath this program did. Butler, Clay, Fillmore, this is the area that has my four counties in it, they made 400 arrests, and they made 350 undercover buys. So they are effective. Again, you know, Nebraska, we pride ourselves in not being lumped in with the rest of the United States on many things, and this is another thing where we need to stand up and say, hey, we're not like the rest of these people that are using the money inappropriately. A point has been made about, you know, the feds coming in and yanking funds. And so does that mean that we have to nanny-sit and pick up every fund that comes along that's an orphan and doesn't have a parent anymore? No, it doesn't mean that. But meth is a scourge in our state. You know, they recently did a survey of Nebraskans of eight issues. On a scale of one to five, what was the one problem they said was the biggest problem in Nebraska? Methamphetamine got 4.83 as a score, the highest one. Next one down was sex offenders. So I think we need to focus on Nebraska's outcomes. What I just read to you, and the information that's available, our law enforcement officers should not be punished for the way the other states have used their money. And pretty soon, I went over to double-check with a member of the Appropriations Committee, but we're going to be looking at picking up some money for the drug courts that the feds have dumped. Now, I'm sure, you know, we need drug court money. They dumped it; we're going to have to pick it up on our appropriation here. It hasn't come up yet, but it is coming. So are we going to say then that the feds dumped that; so what? Let's get it where they're getting it now, and that is out in the communities, where it's being sold, you know, where it's